

**Maricopa Integrated Health Systems  
Formulary Prior Auth Criteria**

**Drug: Accutane (Isotretinoin)**

**Therapy:**

Is indicated for the treatment of severe recalcitrant nodular acne. "Severe," by definition, means "many" as opposed to "few or several" nodules. Accutane should be reserved for patients with severe nodular acne who are unresponsive to conventional therapy, including systemic antibiotics

**Inclusions for Health Select members and MHP only:**

- A)** Request comes from a Derm doctor
- B)** Failure of two oral antibiotics (i.e. Tetracycline, Minocycline, Doxycycline, or Erythromycin)
- C)** Failure of two medication from the following categories:
  - 1) Topical antibiotics (i.e. topical clindamycin or topical erythromycin)
  - 2) Benzoyl peroxide products
  - 3) Topical retinoids (i.e. Retin-A)
- D)** Females- will need two negative urine or serum pregnancy tests or confirm that the pregnancy test is unnecessary
- E)** Consent form been signed by patient or from his or her parents or guardian

**Black Box warning:**

**Females must not use Accutane who are pregnant or who may become pregnant while undergoing treatment. It is recommended that pregnancy test and contraception counseling be repeated on a monthly basis. To encourage compliance with this recommendation, the physician should prescribe no more than a 1-month supply of the drug.**

**Effective contraception must be used for at least one month prior to Accutane administration**

**Risk Factor/Contraindication:**

Cannot donate blood during therapy and for 30 days after stopping therapy  
Concomitant treatment with tetracyclines should be avoided due to the risk of pseudotumor cerebri.

**Warnings:**

- A) Psychiatric Disorder-** may cause depression, psychosis, and, rarely suicidal ideation, suicide attempts and suicide. Discontinuation of therapy may be insufficient
- B) Pseudotumor cerebri-** Accutane has been associated with a number of cases of pseudotumor cerebri. Early signs and symptoms include papilledema, headache, nausea and vomiting and visual disturbances. Patients with these symptoms should be screened for papilledema, and if present therapy should be discontinued immediately and be referred to a neurologist for further diagnosis and care.

- C) **Acute pancreatitis**- either elevated or normal serum triglyceride levels. Accutane should be stopped if hypertriglyceridemia cannot be controlled
- D) **Decreased Night Vision**- patients should be warned of this potential problem and warned to be cautious when driving or operating any vehicle at night. Visual problem should be carefully monitored
- E) **Corneal Opacities**- All Accutane patients experiencing visual difficulties should discontinue the drug and have an ophthalmological examination. Complete resolution or resolving was noted within 6 to 7 weeks after discontinuation of drug

**Authorization:**

Five months initially

After a lapse of eight week reauthorization for another five months with documentation efficacy of previous use or recurring acne

Maximum is 10 months

**Medical Director** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_